Indo-us Joint Naval Exercise in Indian Ocean

3003. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since agreed to participate in Joint Naval exercises in the Indian Ocean with the USA; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE N THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b). The Indian Navy conducts joint exercises with various foreign Navies of other friendly countries, from time to time. It has been agreed that our Navy may hold similar exercises with the US Navy, in 1992, for establishing procedures for sea-air-rescue, communications-at-sea etc in the Indian Ocean region.

Privatisation of Calcutta Port Trust

3004. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of State of the Ministry of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta Port Trust recently undertook major exercises to identify the areas of operation that could be left open to the private sector;

(b) if so, whether the Government have since received any specific proposal in this regard from Calcutta Port Trust;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. Exercise to identify possible areas of privatisation are still continuing.

(b) and (c). The following proposals related to privatisation/usage of dedicated facilities by captive users have been identified by the Port and sent to the Government:

(i) MDU for use of Berth 5 at HDC by SAIL.

(ii) MDU for use of Berth 8 by TISCO at HDC.

(iii) Tendering for leasing out NS dry Dock 1 and 2 at CDS with lay up berth offering 30 years lease.

(d) Government welcomes privatisation in various areas of the port sector. However, each case will be decided on its merits.

Export of Jute Goods

3005. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for jute goods in international market is on the increase;

(b) if so, the reasons for sharp decline in the export of jute goods during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the production and export of jute and jute goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) According to the data available from Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, the world imports of jute products have declined from the level of 1048.3 Thousand Metric Tonnes in 1987 to 944.9 Thousand MT in 1988 and further to 922.5 Thousand MT in 1989. However, the world imports during 1990 increased to 966.9 Thousand MT.

(b) During the last three years exports of jute goods from India were as follows: